

Customer No.: 31561
Application No.: 10/710,659
Docket No.: 10318-US-PA

REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

The Office Action rejected all presently-pending claims 1-4. Specifically, the Office Action rejected claims 1 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Office Action further rejected claims 1, 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Matsko et al. (US 4,331,996). The Office Action also rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Matsko et al. and Solomon (US 5,053,978). Applicants have amended claims 1 and 2 to improve clarity. After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-4 remain pending in the present application, and reconsideration of those claims is respectfully requested.

Discussion of Office Action Rejections

The Office Action rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. More specifically, the Office Action further rejected claim 1 due to following statements "said starter relay and timer relay are connected in parallel", and "wherein said timer switch and said switch circuit are connected in parallel forming a first parallel circuit".

It is a first question from the Office Action that "*a parallel connection can be made either between the coils (solenoids) or between their contacts*". For clearly defining the claimed feature,

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the Applicants have amended claims 1 and 2 such that the timer switch and the switch circuit have their contacts connected in parallel, and the starter relay and the timer relay have their contacts connected in parallel. The amended part can be concluded from paragraph [0020] in the Specification of the present application, especially "the starter relay 24 is turned off ... At the same time, the timer relay 25 remains on for a predetermined time period". It is obviously that the Office Action acknowledges that "If the parallel connection is made between the coils then whenever timer is activated, the other starter relay is activated too" (page 7 of the Office Action). Accordingly, since the starter relay does not always turn on when the timer relay turns on, the parallel connection between the timer relay and the starter relay should be made between their contacts. The same conclusion can be made for the timer switch and the switch circuit.

It is another question from the Office Action that "*If the parallel connection is made between their contacts then again the question arises as to what kind of contacts are used, i.e., normally closed or normally open.*" To answer the question, the IEEE446 standard should be considered. Accordingly to IEEE446 standard, the frequency converter should continuously outputting power to the equipment when the power is beyond 70%. Therefore, the starter relay should be normally on. Further, according to paragraph [0020] in Specification of the present application, "when the voltage level of the power supply is below a predetermined voltage level ... the timer relay 25 remains on for a predetermined time period", the timer relay is

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normally on and is a power off delay relay (for example, a power off delay timer is made by OMRON).

Accordingly, the amended claims 1 and 2 clearly define how the parallel connection is made. Therefore, withdrawn of rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 and reconsideration of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action further rejected claims 1, 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Matsko et al. (US 4,331,996). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for at least the reasons set forth below.

As stated in the Office Action, the AAPA does not disclose activation of the starter relay in a power-up process (page 5 – page 6). However, the AAPA does not disclose the claimed feature “said timer switch and said switch circuit have their contacts connected in parallel forming a first parallel circuit, said starter relay and timer relay have their contacts connected in parallel forming a second parallel circuit, said first parallel circuit and said second circuit are connected in series” as claimed in claim 1, either.

Even combined with Matsko, combination of the AAPA and Matsko still does not disclose the following feature “said timer switch and said switch circuit have their contacts connected in parallel forming a first parallel circuit, said starter relay and timer relay have their contacts connected in parallel forming a second parallel circuit, said first parallel circuit and said second circuit are connected in series” as claimed in claim 1. The Office Action states that “...the starter relay (element UVRC in Fig. 1) ... The timer relay determines whether or not to turn

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on/off the timer switch (element UVRC in Fig. 1)...” in page 6. Therefore, the Office Action takes the element UVRC as the starter relay and the timer switch. However, a single element (UVRC) is impossible to have its contacts simultaneously parallel and serial connected with the timer relay. Accordingly, combination of the AAPA and Matsko does not teach, suggest or disclose the technique feature of “the timer switch and the switch circuit should have their contacts connect in parallel, and the starter relay and the timer relay should have their contacts connect in parallel” as claimed in claim 1. Therefore, combination of the AAPA and Matsko does not render claim 1 obvious.

Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over AAPA and Matsko.

As a matter of law, claims 3 and 4 are patentable over AAPA and Matsko since their dependent claim, claim 1, is patentable over AAPA and Matsko.

The Office Action further rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Matsko and Solomon (US 5,053,978). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for at least the reasons set forth below.

As discussed above, the AAPA does not disclose activation of the starter relay in a power-up process (page 5 – page 6). However, the AAPA does not disclose the claimed feature “said timer switch and said switch circuit have their contacts connected in parallel forming a first parallel circuit, said starter relay and timer relay have their contacts connected in parallel forming a second parallel circuit, said first parallel circuit and said second circuit are connected in series” as claimed in claim 1, either. Even combined with Matsko, combination of the AAPA and

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Matsko still does not disclose the same feature and therefore combination of the AAPA and Matsko does not render claim 1 obvious. Further, even combined with Solomon, the combination of AAPA in view of Matsko and Solomon does not disclose the same feature of claim 1 stated above, and therefore does not render claim 1 obvious. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over AAPA in view of Matsko and Solomon.

Accordingly, claim 2 is patentable over AAPA in view of Matsko and Solomon as a matter of law since its dependent claim, i.e., claim 1, is patentable over AAPA.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 patentably defines over the prior art references, and should be allowed. For at least the same reasons, dependent claims 2-4 patentably define over the prior art as well.

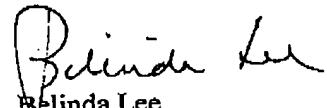
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CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the pending claims 1-4 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,


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